

Alberta's finances. Budget speech
delivered by the Hon. A.C. Rutherford, Prime
Minister and Provincial Treasurer, March, 1907.
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BUDGET SPEECH

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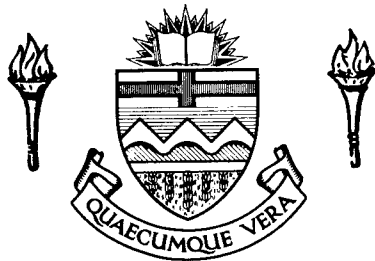
PREMIER RUTHERFORD
Provincial Treasurer

February, 1909

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In my remarks on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I referred to some of the events which transpired during the past year. I will not refer to these on this occasion. There are two events which occurred since to which I shall make a brief reference. The first is the announcement that there is a possibility of our grain being routed westward, in fact, a large amount of our grain has already gone to the westward instead of being transported by way of Eastern Canada. This event is of great significance and has brought a feeling of hopefulness to the people of the Province of Alberta.

The Grain Conference

A grain convention was held a short time ago, and it was a very enthusiastic one, and everyone at that gathering felt it was a splendid thing—the announcement made by the Canadian Pacific Railway that they would be prepared to ship Alberta grain westward rather than to the East. Every one at this convention expressed great gratification in regard to this very important announcement. They felt that it would assist a great deal to solve many of the problems and disadvantages under which the farmers of Alberta have had to contend with in the past.

Another event has occurred since to which I shall briefly refer. It was not a very big affair, the convention which met at Red Deer the other day. I congratulate the hon. member for High River (Mr. Robertson) that he is still the leader of the Conservative party for the Province of Alberta. (Laughter and applause.) An attempt—

BUDGET SPEECH

This is the fourth budget to be presented to this Legislature. We are now entering upon the work of the fourth year of the present administration. In my last budget speech I referred to the financial stringency which was felt here in Western Canada in common with the rest of Canada and in common with the other countries of the world. Now everything points to the fact that this financial stringency is fast passing away and we enter upon this year with great hopefulness and with a feeling of optimism that the year will bring forth advances in material things to this province and to the Dominion of Canada. (Applause). The farmers throughout the province realized fair crops and fair prices for their crops the past year, and this will help very materially to bring about a better financial condition in the Province of Alberta.

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a fruitless attempt—was made to supplant him. However, if the Conservative party desire a new leader, I commend to them Senator Lougheed, the real leader, the power behind the throne in Alberta. There is no doubt about his being able to resign his seat in the Senate and taking the leadership of the party in Alberta. He has been roving about in Alberta for the last two or three weeks trying to drum up some opposition to the Government of Alberta when he should be attending to his duties as senator at Ottawa. (Loud applause.) For twenty years he has represented the Calgary district in the Upper House. In that time what has he done for Calgary or the West? Absolutely nothing. There is not one stone upon another in Calgary or anywhere in the West to show that Senator Lougheed has represented the West in the Senate of Canada. Yet he undertakes to give the people of Alberta advice.

Not Pleased With Government.

He is not pleased, as the papers report, that the Government of Alberta owns the telephone system. What cares he whether it is conducted on a business basis or not? He is not pleased with the Provincial Government railway policy. I did not expect that he would be pleased with it. If he has courage, let him come out openly, resign his seat in the Senate and assume the leadership of the Conservative party in the Province and appeal to the electors of Alberta, as he has done in the party convention, on the questions of provincial administration of telephones and on the desirability of provincial aid for the construction of railways.

The platform of the Conservative party as adopted at Red Deer is a very patchy affair, but in several planks the hand of Senator Lougheed can be plainly seen, especially in the resolutions with respect to telephones and provincial aid to railways. Senator Lougheed, the master of the Conservative party in Alberta, is opposed to provincial ownership of telephones and opposed to provincial aid for the construction of railways. He also charged that the Alberta Government had been reckless in their expenditures and had to resort to direct taxation to raise money for purposes which were not justified. I do not know what the Senator means by resorting to direct taxation unless he means the taxation of railways. (Laughter and applause.) He no doubt means that no tax should be levied on the C. P. R. branch lines. The C. P. R. is, however, willing to pay a tax on their lines. In fact, their chief officers intimated to the Government that they were willing to pay a reasonable tax in support of roads, and schools. We exempt the C. P. R. new lines, as we do the new lines of other companies, from taxation for a limited period. The Senator is not so liberal as the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. He considers that we impose upon them a direct tax. According to the Senator it should be removed, even although the C. P. R. is willing to pay.

Retention of Lands

A great deal has been said in the Western Province in regard to the Dominion Government retaining the lands and giving a cash grant in lieu of our lands. A Conservative of the Conservatives stated in a recent interview:

"We have said a lot about the loss of our lands, but the fact is that as rapidly as the lands are settled and patented they become a Provincial asset. Until then they are an expense on account of their administration. We want to realize them for a Provincial asset by realizing settlement, and, to that end, we want to boost for settlers. When our population reaches the number of 2,500,000, our annual subsidy from the Dominion will amount to \$3,370,375." We want to realize that annual \$3,370,375. In brief, that is just what we do want, the population necessary to secure that annuity, not for the sake of the annuity, but for the sake of the generally improved conditions that will result." These are the words of the hon. member for Rosebud (Mr. Hiebert), who has sat with us for four sessions. (Applause.)

I believe that the hon. member for Rosebud was conscientious in maintaining in the past that we did not have a good financial arrangement with the Dominion government. He, like many sensible Conservatives, now sees that the majority of the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan decided by their votes at the first provincial election that the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan received a fair financial deal. One of the planks of the Conservative party in the last Dominion election was the restoration of the lands to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan upon fair terms. With what result? Thirteen Liberals and four Conservatives were elected in the two new provinces of Canada to the House of Commons at Ottawa. (Loud applause.)

The hon. member for Rosebud states that we want to realize that annual \$3,370,375.00. I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that we will receive from the Dominion government, when Alberta reaches the population of 2,500,000, not \$3,370,375.00, but \$3,770,375.00, or \$400,000 more annually than stated as the amount in the statement of the hon. member for Rosebud to the press of Alberta. (Applause.)

The Subsidy Limit

I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that of the \$3,770,375 which we will receive from the Dominion when Alberta has a population of 2,500,000, the sum of \$1,550,000 is the result of the work of the delegates of the provincial government to the provincial conference at Ottawa in 1906. (Applause.)

According to the terms of the Autonomy Act our grant when we have a population of 2,500,000 would be only \$2,220,375. I think that this one transaction alone in obtaining this increased grant should deserve the gratitude of the people of the Province of Alberta. We have boosted the revenue of the Province of Alberta in the short period of three years and a half, and we are already on the road to receive that annuity referred to. We are entitled to an adjustment of the subsidy from the Dominion government every two and one-half years. The governments of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan claim that the population of each of the provinces has increased 125,000 since the last census was taken in June, 1906. On the basis of an additional population of 125,000 we are entitled to receive \$48,000 a year more than we have heretofore been receiving. We are now receiving annually

\$130,000 more than we received under the Autonomy Act as a result of the work accomplished by the provincial conference at Ottawa in 1906. In all then, \$178,000 more a year than when we became a province.

The Government's Work Is Good

It is the candid opinion I believe of the hon. member for Rosebud, who has sat in the Legislature for four sessions and has observed the work of the government from the beginning, that the work of the government has been good and I believe that he has a more intimate knowledge of the work of the government than any other Conservative in Alberta. He has paid the government a compliment, a very high compliment. He stated: "I must in fairness admit that the present work of the government as a general whole is for the country's good. I do not know by what method the government will secure the railways we want, and will reserve the right to criticise if the methods employed are not sound and the best available, but the fact that we are to be given the roads is the important item, and be it far from me to attempt to hinder the honest effort of the government merely for the sake of opposing it." (Loud applause.)

I shall on this occasion give a brief review of the work done by the Government during the past year as well as during the past three and one-half years.

I shall now in the first place give a brief review of the work which has been accomplished during the last three and one-half years by the department of the Attorney-General.

Attorney-General's Department.

The work before the session of the year 1906 consisted largely of organization and foundation work and in preparation for the legislation of the first session. Apart from this the most important thing accomplished by the department was the compilation of the consolidation of the Ordinances of the Northwest Territories from 1898 to 1905. This work was absolutely indispensable and the consolidation itself has been found to be of the greatest assistance both to the profession and to the public, and it will render the task of the first revision of the statutes very much simpler than it otherwise would have been. In connection with the statute law revision, it is the intention to begin work on same this year so as to have the revision pretty well in hand by the session of 1910. The legislation of 1910 can then be incorporated in it and a volume of the Revised Statutes of Alberta should appear between the session of 1910 and 1911. This volume will bring the old Ordinances all up to date and incorporate the first five years' legislation of the new Province.

In the year 1907 the chief work done consisted in the taking over of the land registration system from the Dominion Government and the operation of it by the Province. Also the establishment of the new judicial system of the Province provided for in the legislation of 1907, introducing the district court system. Two new judicial districts were formed, namely, Wetaskiwin and Lethbridge, and court offices opened in each place with the necessary officials.

Work Got Up to Date.

Additional accommodation was provided for the Land Titles Offices in Edmonton and Calgary, and the work of these offices, which had got sadly in arrears, was cleaned up and brought up to date by the employment of a night staff in each place so that now all work that comes into either of these offices during the day is finished up within twenty-four hours.

The government having made an arrangement with the Federal authorities for the continuation of the Royal North-West Mounted Police in the Province, the Department has, of course, had a great deal to do in connection with the police, and with the maintenance of prisoners in the guard-rooms. The department has had to deal during all the years with the ever-increasing burden resting upon it in connection with the administration of justice in the Province, the extradition of persons alleged to have committed crime, and the trial of all offenders.

It is, however, satisfactory to note that the costs of administration from year to year chargeable to witnesses and juries and to incidental justice, has shown but little increase compared with the rapid settlement of the Province. The conclusion to be drawn from this is that the settlers who have come to Alberta are a class either law-abiding, or rapidly becoming so after being in the Province any length of time. The Province's insane have also been looked after by the department during each of the years, and since the new Dominion Immigration Act came into force, in 1907, the department has been diligent in saving the money of the Province by insisting upon the deportation in all cases of persons that under the law could be deported, who were found to be insane. The activity of the department in this regard saved a large sum indeed to the Province since 1906.

I should have mentioned that shortly after the Act of 1906, with respect to the payment of the clerks of the court by salary instead of, as formerly, by fees, the department brought into force the law stamp system in the Province, which has not only saved considerable money that under the old system was lost by the clerks in bad debts, but has completely simplified the making of returns by clerks of the courts of their fees to the department, while at the same time providing a most accurate kind of a check upon these officials.

The Work of 1908.

During the year that has just passed gratifying progress has been made along the special lines in which the department is interested. The fees received from the Land Titles Office, exclusive of the assurance fund, were \$96,762.40, as compared with \$102,638.15 in 1907, and the assurance fund fees for the past year have amounted to \$29,081.90. When it is considered that there has been a very perceptible lull during the past year in the Province, so far as speculation in real property is concerned, the figures shown above are astonishingly good. During the year also there has been received from the Dominion Government the sum of \$85,350.70, being the Province's share of the assurance fund established under the old Dominion Land Titles Act, and now handed over to the Province.

The fees received through the clerks' offices from the sale of law stamps during the year has been \$51,014.88, as compared with \$24,549.52 in 1907, an increase of over 100 per cent.

Court Costs Reduced

Nothing shows more clearly the great necessity there was in the Province of a district court system such as the district court system that was established. The conclusion is irresistible that before the establishment of the district courts a large number of persons were unable to seek recourse through the courts because of the expense and delay attendant upon doing so under the old system. The fees during the year have been very considerably cheapened, especially in connection with the small debt procedure. Notwithstanding this, the increase in the revenue to the Province from this source alone is over 100 per cent. During the year a completely new and simplified small debt procedure was promulgated by the Government, having been prepared by the department, and it has been enthusiastically received throughout the Province by both the profession and the public.

In 1908 the fines under provincial statutes received by the department amounted to \$12,293.31, as compared with \$11,648.41 in 1907, and under Dominion Statutes the sum received was \$9,454.41 as compared with \$10,123.76 in 1907. The fees returned by the sheriffs for the last six months of 1908 amount to \$7,158.84. The sheriffs were put upon a salary basis during the last half of the year and the fees collectable by them from the public were very much reduced, these fees being now returned to the Government.

There are at the present time 224 prisoners in the guard rooms of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police at Calgary, Fort Saskatchewan, Macleod and Lethbridge, and this number indicates that all the guardrooms are very much over-crowded, and it is unquestionable that the Province will soon have to face the question of the establishment of either a central prison or considerably increased accommodation in the way of provincial gaols. At present almost half of the available police force in the Province is engaged in guard duty upon prisoners.

Not a Large Percentage of Insane

The number of lunatics in the Brandon Asylum from Alberta on the 1st of January, 1908, was 112. The number on the 31st day of December of the same year was 114. During the year 15 of our patients died, 7 persons were deported and 20 were discharged as cured. There were altogether 45 persons admitted from Alberta to the Brandon Asylum during the year, and altogether 43 released, leaving a net increase on the 1st of January, 1909, of two.

Liquor License Branch

In connection with the liquor license branch of the department, there were 13 new hotel licenses and 3 new wholesale licenses granted in the Province in 1908, as against 22 new hotel licenses and 5 new wholesale licenses in the previous year. There were 14 hotel licenses and 1 wholesale license refused in 1908, as against 15 hotel licenses and 4 wholesale licenses in 1907 so refused. There were 23

licensees convicted in 1908 as against 45, or nearly double that number, in 1907, showing a decrease in convictions of licensees during the year of nearly 100 per cent. This shows that the system of inspection has been good.

The amount of fines realized from convictions of licensees during 1908 is thus considerably less than in 1907, the figures for 1908 being \$1,580, and for 1907 \$2,171. As against this, however, the amount of the fines collected from non-licensees for breaches of the Liquor License Act is very much larger in 1908 than 1907, although the number of convictions has not appreciably increased. The amount collected from conviction of 141 non-licensees in 1908 was \$7,268.95, while the amount collected from 140 non-licensees in 1907 was \$5,642. These figures indicate that the committing justices are becoming very severe in their convictions of those who sell liquor without a license. There were 86 transfers consented to in 1908 as against 104 in the previous year and 14 licenses lapsed in 1908 as against 10 in the previous year.

It will be noticed by comparing the figures above that during 1908 14 licenses lapsed, whereas only 13 new hotel licenses were issued and 3 new wholesale licenses, so that there was one more license lapsed than the number of new hotel licenses issued during the year. The revenue from hotel licenses in 1908 was \$54,385.14 as against \$55,195.13 in the previous year. The revenue from wholesale licenses in 1908 also shows a small decrease from that of 1907, the figures being \$9,852.75 in 1908 as against \$9,977.33 in 1907. These figures indicate that although the Province during the year has very much increased in population, there has been no corresponding increase in the number of hotel or wholesale licenses for the sale of liquor issued nor in the revenue derived from this source, but on the contrary there has been a decrease in this regard.

Inspection of Legal Offices

The work done by the Inspector of Legal Offices in connection with the establishment of sheriffs' bailiffs and process issuers throughout the Province has been most important. During the year 50 bailiffs and 43 process issuers were appointed. The result of this bailiff system is that the people in the Province are saved a very large amount in legal expenses, because before the establishment of this system the sheriffs used to charge mileage from the place where they lived to the place where any process was served and return, and this item of mileage was the chief cause of piling up the costs chargeable against litigants. Not only have the sheriffs' fees been cut down this year very materially, but this item of mileage has by the bailiff system been lessened very largely. The mileage now charged is only from the residence of the bailiff to the place where process is served, and as there are bailiffs now at numerous places all over the Province, this amount is only a small fraction of what it was before. The increase in the number of process issuers has immensely facilitated the initiation of proceedings throughout the Province, and the large increase already referred to in the clerks' fees is chiefly attributable to the facilities the Government has placed at the disposal of the people for the redress of their civil grievances.

The court and land office buildings that are at present in the course of construction include a new Land Titles Office at Calgary, which is expected to be ready for occupation this spring; a new court house at Wetaskiwin, which will be completed and ready for occupation in a few months. Plans have been prepared for a court house at Lethbridge, and for a provincial gaol at Lethbridge, and the foundations have been laid for the Edmonton court house, which should be completed during the coming year or shortly afterwards.

Practically all the legislation that has been introduced into the House, whether private or public bills, has been revised by the Department of the Attorney-General, with the result that the laws on the Statute books of the Province of Alberta have been carefully drawn, carefully worded, and have received the praise of the best legal minds of the Province, as well as by those outside of the Province, who have had occasion to examine them. (Loud applause.)

The committees of the House have done their work well and there is no crude legislation by the Legislature of Alberta. (Applause continued.)

Department of Public Works

In some respects, Mr. Speaker, the Department of the Minister of Public Works is the most important in the Government of the Province of Alberta. It is not a collecting department. It is not intended to be. It does very important work and work for which the Minister of Public Works is greatly appreciated in this Province. (Applause.) We commenced business three and one half years ago with few roads. The Territorial Government spent a very small amount on roads and bridges as compared with what has been spent by the Government of the Province of Alberta. (Hear, hear.)

The improvement of roads and the construction of bridges will probably be with us for a great many years and I feel that the government should give as liberally as possible to this very important work. (Hear, hear.) Roads and bridges, even with additional railway facilities, are of not less importance than they have been heretofore. We have given a large amount of money for the improvement of roads and the construction of bridges and it is hoped that the government of Alberta in the future will be able to devote reasonable amounts for this purpose. (Hear, hear.)

In the southern part of the Province, what has been done, and what they require most is bridges rather than the improvement of roads. In the northern part—I mean by the northern part not the far north, but the central part of Alberta—what they need largely is an expenditure of money for the improvement of roads and the construction of smaller bridges. The department constructed quite a few large bridges in the southern part of Alberta and erected a large number of smaller bridges in the central portion. The expenditure by the department, if you refer to the public accounts from year to year, has been distributed fairly among all portions of the Province. (Applause.)

The construction and improvement of roads was carried on in accordance with the policy outlined in the budget speech of last year, and an effort was made to adhere as far as possible to a uniform system of road making and to secure the co-operation of the local improvement districts. Owing to the large influx of popu-

lation we are constantly receiving requests from new sections of the country which are being opened up and settled for assistance in the way of main and colonization roads. Main roads have been extended on into the outlying districts, in many cases at considerable expense, and heavy improvements done upon main roads leading into the various towns of the province, the expenditure on which, during the past year amounted to \$249,758.38. (Applause.)

Bridge Construction.

During the past season, 1908, a much larger number of bridges, as well as some very large and important structures, have been undertaken and completed; 429 structures were dealt with during the year, 384 of which were new structures and 145 reconstructed or repaired. Among the bridges worthy of special mention are:

Bridge over the South Saskatchewan River at Medicine Hat, the construction of which was commenced in the latter part of 1906 and completed and opened for traffic in May of last year, consisting of five 180 feet steel spans with 20-foot roadway and six-foot sidewalk.

Bridge over the Bow River, southwest of Penhold, consisting of three 175-foot steel spans of concrete substructures.

Bridge over the Bow River, east of Calgary, consisting of three 135 foot spans on concrete substructures and bridge over the Little Red Deer River west of Penhold, consisting of three 125 foot steel spans on concrete substructures.

The following steel superstructures, erected on pile and timber substructures, might also be mentioned: One 80-foot highway span over the Little Bow River northeast of Lethbridge; one 60-foot steel highway span over the Blindman River at Garry's Crossing; one 60-foot steel highway span on the same stream at Forshew's Crossing; one 90-foot steel highway, span over the Little Red Deer River west of Didsbury; two 125-foot steel highway spans over the Red Deer River, at Middrie's Crossing, west of Olds; one 125-foot steel highway span over the Battle River at Hardisty and one 125-foot steel highway span on the same stream north of Wainwright.

Work has been commenced on three important steel bridges, viz.: Over the Belly River at Taber; the Old Man River at Macleod and the Red Deer River at Red Deer, which will be completed during the present year. Including the steel bridges erected during 1908, we will have something over 90 steel highway bridges in the province at present. The total expenditure on bridges during the year amounted to \$347,839.56.

Operation of Ferries.

During the season 25 ferries were operated, new ferries were installed on the Saskatchewan River, north of Kitscoty, at the Narrows at Lac Ste. Anne, on the Peace River at Peace River Crossing, on the North Saskatchewan River at Rocky Mountain House, on the Red Deer River near Fieldhome, on the Red Deer River Carbon, on the Red Deer River west of Olds, on the Bow River south of Strathmore, and the ferry operated heretofore operated at Medicine Hat not being required on account of the completion of the

bridge, was moved up the river and installed at a point near Bow Island. In view of the fact that it is found impossible to immediately construct all bridges required at important points on the large streams, we are endeavoring as far as possible to meet the traffic demands by installing ferries as a first means of meeting the requirements. The expenditure incurred in connection with the construction and operation of ferries amounted to \$18,287.56.

Eight hundred and thirty-eight miles of fireguard were plowed or replowed during the season at a cost of \$4,191.87. Tenders for plowing were called for early in the season and we received a better response than in previous years. With very few exceptions, all the guards advertised were plowed or replowed as the case may be.

In view of the pressing demand for water supply in some portions, particularly in the southeast part of the province, an effort was made to render all possible assistance by way of sinking test wells on road allowances, where if water obtained, a well is then of service to the adjacent community, and at the same time it is determined if water is available and at what depth. While the results have not in all cases been satisfactory, we have been fortunate in obtaining fairly good supplies of water at Claresholm, Orton, Granum, Rocky Coulee and at several other locations in the vicinity of Warner. The expenditures on these works last year amounted to \$10,483.76.

New Public Buildings.

During the year the construction of some ten buildings has been carried on by the Department of Public Works—Parliament Buildings, Edmonton; Court House, Edmonton; Court House, Wetaskiwin; Hospital for Insane, Ponoka; Normal School, Calgary; Land Titles Building, Calgary; Telephone warehouse, Calgary; Court House buildings, Cardston; Assembly Hall Edmonton; Telephone Exchange, Strathcona.

The Normal School at Calgary, Court House at Cardston, Assembly Hall, Edmonton, and Telephone Exchange, Strathcona, were all completed during the year. The concrete foundations for the Parliament Buildings, Edmonton, totalling 9,844 cubic yards of concrete were completed late in the year, and the erection of two storeys of the steel structure, which was contracted for during the year, was immediately started, and at close of the year approximately 900 tons of steel were in place. This part of the work will be completed by the end of February, 1909, and the building made ready for starting the work on setting the granite basement storey at the opening of the building season, for which granite work a contract at a very favorable figure to the government was awarded during December. Tenders for the cut-stone work above the basement storey have been advertised for and are now being received. A contract for the construction of the masonry work in connection with the Edmonton Court House was awarded and the work of excavation started late in July. Good progress was made on this part of the work as well as on the finishing of the concrete foundations, which were completed early in November, and the construction work then ceased for the winter months. It was expected that the Court House at Wetaskiwin would be finished during 1908, but on account of a few unavoidable delays this

building will not be completed until early in 1909. During the fall months good progress was made on the excavations and foundations in connection with the asylum for the insane at Ponoka. Plans are now outlined for the carrying on of construction of this important structure during 1909 contemplate rapid progress in order to have the building roofed in before next winter sets in, thus permitting of the going ahead with the interior construction during the winter months. Good progress was made on the Land Titles building at Calgary, and the building is now ready for the placing of the finishing materials as soon as the weather permits. This building deserves special notice in regard to its construction and finish, as both are strictly fireproof and the first of their kind in the province.

Carefully Planned.

In the preparation of the plans for the above-mentioned buildings, as well as other new structures, the construction of which was not commenced during the year, much time and thought has been given. Special information has been sought from competent authorities whenever it was deemed advisable in order to produce the best results. This was especially so in connection with the asylum for the insane at Ponoka. No effort was spared in the preparation of working drawings and specifications, in order that they might be made plain and comprehensive to contractors, and this was especially so in connection with the granite contract for the Parliament Buildings at Edmonton as 22 detailed drawings were prepared, in addition to the small scale working drawings and 3,700 pieces of stones amounting to 33,900 cubic feet, were scheduled and dimensioned. The total expenditure on buildings during the year was \$450,988.66.

The report of the Director of Surveys shows that 464 surveys and examinations were made, 272 plans received or prepared and recorded, 283 certificates of title received and recorded, and the amount of compensation paid for right of way was \$28,650.54.

The administration of the Coal Mines Act has been carried on by the Provincial Inspector of Mines, with headquarters at Edmonton, one district inspector with headquarters at Calgary, who inspected the large mines in the Crow's Nest Pass, west of Pincher Creek, the Bankhead and Canmore mines, and the mines in the Knee Hill and Three Hill districts, and one district inspector with headquarters at Lethbridge, who inspected the mines in the Lethbridge, Taber, Pincher Creek, Medicine Hat and High River districts.

The Coal Output.

The output of coal from reports received to date amounts to approximately 1,600,000 tons, and when all reports are received the output for 1908 will reach 2,000,000 tons. The output of coal in tons for the N. W. T. in 1901 was 346,649 tons; in 1902, 510,674; in 1903, 622,939; in 1904, 782,931. In Alberta in 1905, 811,228; in 1906, 1,385,009, and in 1907, 1,834,745. Thus it will be seen that in spite of the general trade depression during the past year the output of coal in the Province shows no diminution.

Nineteen new mines were opened during the year, making a total of 112 mines now known to be in operation in the Province of Alberta.

The past year shows a marked decrease in the number of accidents in the mines, in a great measure due to the introduction of safety lamps and the better control of shot firing in some of the larger mines in the Province.

A considerable amount of coal prospecting work has been done in the remote districts of the Province during the year and many valuable seams of coal have been opened up, which, with the coming of additional railway facilities, will, no doubt, be operated in the near future. The expenditure for the administration of the Coal Mines branch amounted to \$6,936.56.

The administration of the Steam Boilers Act was carried on by three inspectors in the field and one clerk in charge at headquarters. The total number of boilers inspected during the year was 671, and the number of certificates of all classes issued was 881. It is gratifying to note that there is a tendency on the part of candidates to take out final certificates in preference to provisional certificates and permits. The total revenue of the branch was \$7,475.00, while the expenditure was \$8,393.51. One of the inspectors made a trip to the Peace River district during the summer, inspecting the boilers in that district.

There has been a marked increase during the year in the volume of work in all branches of the inside service. The total number of communications handled during the year was 240,705, as against 200,300 in 1907, or a daily average during the past year of 802 communications.

The Telephone Department.

With regard to telephones Mr. Speaker, I may say that the Government never made any promise to the people of Alberta that they would reduce the telephone rates. The Government never took that stand, but it has reduced telephone rates. The Government of the Province of Alberta was the first Government to construct a telephone line in Canada. (Applause.) The line from Calgary to Banff was constructed and in operation early in the year 1906.

I intimated, Mr. Speaker, in my budget speech of last year that negotiations were under way with the Bell Telephone Company for the purchase of their system in the Province of Alberta. In April last we concluded arrangements to purchase their system at a very favorable figure to this Province. (Applause.) The taking over of that system by the Government entailed a great deal of additional work on the telephone branch of the Public Works Department. It took some little time in order to get the system in proper shape and on a business basis. It is the intention of the government of this Province to run its telephone system on a business basis. (Applause.) We do not want to make a large percentage on the investment. We are giving telephones at a reasonable rate to the people of the Province. The farmer's rate and for villages is \$15. The Province of Saskatchewan charges \$16 for the same service. The Government of the Province of Manitoba I believe is charging something like \$24 for this service.

Reduced the Rates.

We have not only reduced the rates below those charged by the Bell Telephone Company in this connection, but we have also re-

duced the tolls on the long distance system. (Applause.) You can now telephone from Lloydminster to Cardston or to Lethbridge in the Southern part of Alberta at a less rate than you could heretofore, so that there has been a general reduction. (Loud Applause.) We did not make that reduction without considering the matter very carefully. We found that we were making a fair rate of interest on the investment and we felt that by reason of that we could very well reduce the cost of telephones and a larger number of people will use them and we will thus make up and probably have pretty near as high a rate of interest as last year. (Hear, hear).

A Prosperous Outlook.

In December last provincial telephone debentures to the amount of \$2,000,000 were sold above par on the London market.

The total expenditure in connection with the Government Telephone system up to Dec. 31 1908, is as follows:

1906	\$ 22,026.20
1907	262,262.79
1908	1,079,920.49
	<hr/>
	\$1,380,219.48

(The expenditure during 1908 includes the amount of \$675,000 paid for the Bell Telephone system, as well as the operating expenses and the cost of constructing over 800 miles of new lines).

When all telephone expenditure up to the first of the current year was met by the sale of debentures there still remained a surplus of \$619,790.52. As the estimated gross revenue of the telephone system for 1909 is \$212,175, and the estimated expenditure for 1909 in operating and constructing new lines is only \$610,000, so that on Dec. 31, 1909, there will still be a surplus of \$221,965.52 to the credit of the telephone account.

At present outstanding against the sale of \$2,000,000 worth of telephone debentures, the Province has the following telephone assets:

A telephone system of 1,842 miles.

A surplus on hand of \$619,790.

While the estimated revenue for 1909 is \$212,175.

New Lines Constructed.

During the year a very great amount of telephone construction work was carried out and put in operation, and in view of the fact that the Bell Telephone system was absorbed early in the year and considering the fact that our organization was not adapted to the needs of the larger projects, the results are very gratifying. During the year there has been constructed 884½ miles of pole line, of which 246 miles were long distance lines and 638 rural lines. A total of 563 rural telephones have been installed. Four exchanges, viz.: Strathcona, Stony Plain, Taber and St. Albert, with a total initial capacity of 650 subscribers have been constructed. The following is a statement of the expenditure and revenue for the year:

Expenditure.

Lines and exchanges purchased	\$ 689,856.94
Lines and exchanges constructed	195,026.80
Stock purchased	110,946.64
Operation, maintenance and expense	100,090.11
Total	<u>\$1,095,920.49</u>

Revenue.

Transferred from Suspense to Revenue	\$115,816.19
Still in Suspense, Dec. 31, 1908	4,773.72
Earnings outstanding at the end of the year	11,738.26
Sale of material	521.69
Total	<u>\$132,849.86</u>

When you take into account that we did not practically commence to receive revenues from the system purchased from the Bell Telephone Company until the first of June last, hon. members will see that our revenues on the whole system amounted to a very substantial sum. (Hear, hear.) We are confident, Mr. Speaker that there will be a very good showing from telephone operations.

The total expenditures on the system to date amounts to \$1,380,-219.48. An estimate of the annual gross revenue of the system, based on December, 1908, business, is as follows:

Exchange rentals	\$114,007.00
Rural line rentals	8,445.00
Revenue from toll lines	89,723.00
	<u>\$212,175.00</u>

or a total of \$212,175.00, which goes to show that the business standing of the system is in a healthy condition. Judging by the present growth of the business, a conservative forecast of the coming year would indicate that there will be a general increase of exchange and toll business of from 20 to 30 per cent. (Applause.)

Local Improvement Branch.

As has been the case in past years, the work of the Local Improvement Branch steadily increased during the year 1908. In connection with this increase of work, I might point out that the increase is greater in connection with the assistance we give to administration of affairs in small local improvement districts and villages than in connection with the assessment and collection of taxes dealt with directly by the department. During the year 1908, forfeiture proceedings were taken under the Local Improvement Act, Village Act and School Assessment Ordinance, as provided for. These proceedings added considerably to the work, but they also brought in payments of taxes that had been in arrears for some time and increased the total collections during the year 1908 to more than twice the amount collected in the year 1907. The total amount of taxes and fees collected by this department during the year 1908 from assessments levied by us under the Local Improvement Act and Educational Tax Act together with arrears due small local improvement districts and school districts, was \$248,733.35.

Despite the increase in the number of small local improvement districts since the assessment was levied in large local improvement districts in the year 1907, and decrease in the rate of assessment of leased lands from 1 1-4 cents per acre to 3-4 cents per acre, the total assessment levied in large local improvement districts in the year 1908, showed an increase over the total assessment levied in the year 1907. The total assessment levied in the year 1908 being \$151,522.11 as compared with \$149,046.83 in the year 1907. The total amount collected for taxes and fees in large local improvement districts during the year 1908 was \$93,406.57, as compared with \$61,777.49 in the year 1907.

During the year the arrears of taxes and fees on lands situated in small local improvement districts to the amount of \$44,809.94 were collected, and the amount due each district forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the district to be used by the Council of the district in connection with the work being carried on by them.

Improvement Council's Work.

The returns we have just received show that the total assessment levied in small local improvement districts all over the Province in the year 1908 amounted to considerably more than \$525,000.00. This amount of money, if properly handled, should enable the councils of these districts to carry on a great deal of work in the way of improving roads and constructing and repairing the bridges within their limits.

The work being carried on by the councils of the various villages throughout the Province, appears on the whole to be very satisfactory. There appears, however, to be a tendency to go rather heavily into debt as soon as organized and while it may be necessary in many cases to borrow a small amount of money for urgent improvements yet it would appear to be advisable for the councils of the different villages to hold their expenses within the amount of the revenue derived from taxation until they are certain as to the future standing of the village. Four villages were established during the year.

In the year 1908 the department collected the sum of \$24,362.61 for arrears of school taxes due on lands situated in rural school districts. These arrears of taxes were forwarded to the district to which they belonged, as soon as received.

By the amendment made to Educational Tax Act in the year 1908, all homesteads were exempt from taxation until four years after date of entry. This amendment greatly reduced the area assessed under the Educational Tax Act in the year 1907. Amendment was also made in the year 1908 providing that leased lands should only be assessed at the rate of 3-4 cents per acre instead of 1 1-4 cents per acre as in the year 1907. This also had the effect of reducing the assessment under this act to a considerable extent, the total assessment levied under this act for the year 1908 was \$151,730.81. The total amount collected during the year 1908 was

\$86,194.23. We are distributing this fund now over \$49,000 to the common schools, \$14,000 to the high schools \$14,000 to the schools organized since the act came into force, \$19,000 to the University. The Hudson's Bay Co. paid over \$24,000, over \$4,000 more than the amount that went to the Provincial University.

I might state, Mr Speaker, that I had a deputation call on me from the Association of United Farmers of Alberta a short time ago. They did not appear to be aware that homesteads were exempt from taxation at all. I stated to them that they were exempt for four years, from this tax after the date of entry. They thought the three years would be ample and also stated that they would consider this tax exceedingly fair.

At a trustees' convention recently held, which was made up of all political shades of opinion, a resolution was passed asking the Government to amend this act so as to provide for the assessment and collection of \$3.20 a quarter section instead of \$2.00. People who are interested in this quite well know that it is a splendid thing for education in the Province of Alberta and there is practically no objection being made in any quarter to this very desirable tax. (Applause.)

Better Than Manitoba.

A large expenditure was made by the Department of Public Works which properly might have been charged during the last three years to capital account. (Hear, hear.) The treasurer of Manitoba recently made a statement with regard to what the Province of Manitoba has accomplished in the construction of buildings and bridges during the past ten years by using the funds of the general revenue rather than charge them up to capital account. I shall take the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of making a comparison of what the Department of Public Works in the Province of Alberta has done as compared with that done by the Government of the Province of Manitoba. The treasurer of Manitoba, after stating in his budget speech this present session that the Government of Manitoba considered it a pleasure to have contributed to grant all the money possible in aid of hospitals, exhibitions, etc., continued as follows:

"Personally I am not in favor of any pinching in policy on the part of the Government, and see no reason why we should continue to make capital account expenditure, or to expend money on capital account out of revenue, and believe that it is perfectly legitimate to borrow money on the credit of the Province for the purpose of meeting expenditures on capital account, and in this matter I am speaking only for myself, but it must be gratifying to the House and to the people of this Province, as it is to me, to make the announcement that this Government has, during ten years, been able to spend about a million and a half dollars upon capital account without borrowing one dollar."

"What has the Government of the Province of Alberta done, and that in three years?"

Steel bridges\$472,284.06
Purchase of sites and erection of buildings 947,563.93

Total \$1,419,847.99
(Loud applause.)

We have done in three years, Mr. Speaker, what the Province of Manitoba takes credit for having done in ten years. (Applause continued).

It might be of interest, Mr. Speaker, if I gave a statement of the expenditures which have been made on sites and the construction of permanent buildings up to December 31st, 1908, amounting to \$947,563.93, made up as follows, which might very well have been charged to capital account, but we paid them out of the revenues of the province. (Applause).

Lethbridge Court House—	Land Titles Building, Calgary—
Site only\$ 7,700.00	1907—Construction\$ 104.90
Lethbridge Jail—	1908—Construction 93,417.50
1907—Purchase of site\$ 4,000.00	Total \$93,522.04
1908—Purchase of site 8,000.00	
Total \$12,000.00	Cardston Court House—
Cold Storage Building, Calgary—	1906—Construction\$ 369.77
1906—Cost of site\$ 1,500.00	1907—Construction and site 13,480.11
1908—Sundries, plans and specifications 1,012.35	1908—Construction 6,985.78
Total \$ 2,512.35	Total \$20,835.66
Court House, Edmonton—	Normal School, Calgary—
1906—Purchase of site\$27,000.00	1906—Construction\$18,829.22
1908—Construction 17,327.36	1907—Construction 92,856.97
Total \$44,327.36	1908—Construction, improving grounds and furnishing 96,205.62
Court House, Wetaskiwin—	Total \$207,891.81
1906—Purchase of site\$ 4,400.00	Court House, Red Deer—
1907—Construction 3,230.00	1907—Purchase of site\$ 5,000.00
1908—Construction 46,415.41	Registry Office, Edmonton—
Total \$54,045.80	1907—Purchase of site\$11,000.00
Asylum Building, Ponoka—	University site, purchased through the Department of Education\$150,000.00
1907—Purchase of site\$ 2,000.00	Total \$947,563.93
1908—Purchase of site 768.00	This \$472,284.06 I have mentioned is only a very small percentage of the amount which the Government has spent on roads and the construction of bridges during the last three years. We expended altogether for this purpose, including surveys, \$1,802,858.18, as follows:
1908—Construction 18,774.20	
Total \$21,542.20	1905
Assembly Hall, Edmonton—	Bridges\$ 17,940.13
1907—Construction\$10,472.31	Roads 34,861.01
1908—Construction 4,961.45	Surveys 11,623.02
Total \$15,433.76	Total \$64,425.06
Terrace Building, Edmonton—	1906
1907—Construction\$49,731.19	Bridges\$223,760.39
1908—Construction and furnishings 4,079.85	Roads 188,277.73
Total \$53,811.04	Surveys 48,282.25
Parliament Buildings—	
1906—Construction\$ 739.05	
1907—Construction 65,460.51	
1907—Purchase of site, only part payment 35,000.00	
1908—Construction146,741.89	
Total \$247,941.45	Total \$460,320.37

1907		1908	
Bridges	\$308,848.70	Bridges	\$347,839.56
Roads	238,962.54	Roads	249,694.38
Surveys	58,006.78	Surveys	74,760.79
			\$672,294.73
\$605,818.02		Grand total	\$1,802,858.18

Considering what has been accomplished by the Province of Alberta in the three years this government has been in office compared with what has been done by the Province of Manitoba in ten years, in the matter of the construction of public buildings and bridge work, I believe all hon. members of this House will agree that it is a magnificent record. (Loud applause).

The Agricultural Department.

The Department of Agriculture has discharged a great deal of work which has been greatly appreciated by the people of the Province of Alberta. (Hear, hear).

Owing to the class of people settling on the land coming from different countries and from all walks of life and owing to different conditions existing in Alberta from those in the countries and provinces from which they came, the work of the department has been largely of an educational character. An aggressive and progressive educational policy has been adopted and carried on. Three experimental farms have been established within the past two years by the Dominion Government, Lethbridge, Lacombe and Fort Vermilion. Liberal assistance has been given to the stock industry. Generous money grants have been given to the horse breeders, cattle breeders, swine breeders, sheep breeders and to a fat stock show.

Official judges have been supplied at all the exhibitions to place the awards and where necessary, to give the reasons for their placing. Correct ideals have been set by means of stock judging schools. These schools have been held at a large number of places in the Province and have been well patronized by the farmers.

In coyote and wolf bounties \$26,701 was paid out last year. Owing to the vote being more than exhausted it was cancelled but again restored on the 15th of January this year. There is an estimate of \$20,000 for wolf and coyote bounty this year. Owing to the large number that were exterminated last year it is probable that the estimate will be sufficient to cover the bounty this year.

Dairy Stock

The Government has this year arranged to bring in for the farmers pure bred dairy stock at a uniform freight rate of \$5 per head. Some assistance has been given towards introducing better stock in the Peace River Country.

A stock inspector is maintained at Winnipeg and Calgary and one will be appointed at Edmonton to examine animals going into abattoir.

The Beef Commission was appointed in conjunction with Manitoba. As a result a live stock commissioner was appointed whose duty has been to assist the farmers in marketing their stock, securing cars, etc. He has been of great assistance to the farmers and ranchers. His work has been greatly appreciated.

Pork Commission.

In pursuance of the announcement made last session a commission was appointed to inquire into the marketing and handling of pork and pork products in the Province. The commission was composed of three well known men in the Province, Mr. R. A. Wallace, of High River, chairman; James Bower, now president of the United Farmers' Association of Alberta; Mr. A. G. Harrison, secretary of the Edmonton Board of Trade, and Mr. E. Trowbridge, secretary.

The commission was appointed to enquire into and report to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council upon the conditions surrounding the marketing and handling of pork and pork products in the Province, and advisability or otherwise of governmental establishment of or assistance to a pork packing plant or plants, and a particular reference to the cost, capacity, plan of management and scope of operation thereof and generally to enquire into and report upon the best means under existing conditions in the province of insuring for the hog producer therein a fair price for his products.

Representative farmers, business men, buyers and packers appeared and testified before the commission at a large number of the principal cities and towns of the Province. The commissioners visited plants at Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Collingwood, Brantford, Hull, Buffalo, Chicago and Edmonton. The evidence and report of the commission are very exhaustive and instructive. A staple market for farm products is very desirable. The market for cured meat is here in Alberta, and there will always be the English market, the British Columbia market and the market in our northern country.

The report states among other matters that "the best thinking farmers and most substantial feel that an ordinary sized plant might be erected for the purpose of killing and curing hogs only on a basis that will be satisfactory to the farmer and not involve the Government in too heavy expenditure and will in no way conflict with private enterprise, but would have a tendency to benefit the same, for the reason that the average farmer would go into hog raising, and increase the number and quality of the hogs raised."

The Recommendations.

The conclusions reached by the commissioners are: That when a sufficient number of hog growers give a reasonable assurance that they will supply at least 50,000 hogs per year to a plant, and that they will elect from among themselves officers and directors whose duty it will be to look after the steady supply of hogs of suitable quality, to decide on the amount of money needed from time to time to successfully operate the plant, to look after the conduct and abilities of the operators, your commissioners would then recommend that the government furnish the money to build, equip and operate a plant, as they and the directors deem most advisable, so constructed as to admit of enlargement, and the original plant to have a capacity large enough to handle at least 300 hogs a day at the start; that the management take in the farmers' hogs pay them at time of delivery up to two-thirds of their estimated value, then at regular intervals as may be agreed upon when sufficient time has elapsed to place the product on the market, pay the producers the balance

of the full value of their products, less the cost of curing and marketing the same and a sum sufficient to pay local working expenses, such as insurance, taxes, directors' remuneration, etc., less one-quarter cent per pound live weight, this one-quarter cent per pound to be applied to the creation of a fund for the purpose of paying back to the government their original investment and interest thereon. And at the same time to allot shares to each patron equal to the amount paid into this fund by the assessment of the one-quarter of a cent per pound on his product. Equalization of freight rates so that one farmer will have no advantage over another. An agreement will be entered into with patrons to supply hogs, and if sold to other than the government plant, a fine of two dollars will be imposed. The commissioners recommend that the stock commissioners be instructed to canvass the different districts for signatures to the agreement. The commissioners recommend a plant to cost \$100,000. The government proposes to instruct the stock commissioner, Mr. W. F. Stevens, to canvass the different districts as recommended. If the farmers do their part we will do ours. We are placing \$50,000 in the estimates this year as a first estimate. (Loud applause). Whatever the plant may cost will be returned to the Province after the plant is established, in deductions from the price of hogs furnished.

Mr. P. Burns of Calgray states that he considers it would be a good thing for the people of the Province if the Government established a pork packing plant.

The Dairy Industry

In 1900 the average price for creamery butter was 20.5 cents per pound. Besides the Government creameries, there are a number of private creameries, making in all 51 creameries in the Province, producing in 1908 2,107,485 pounds of butter, valued at the creameries at \$526,871. In addition to this, there are eight cheese factories, with an output valued at practically \$25,000. Allowing for the butter made in private dairies throughout the Province reaching a value of \$250,000, which is a safe estimate, the total dairy produce is over \$800,000. Some complaint has been made that the Government-operated creameries work to the disadvantage of the private creamery. This is not true, as the great bulk of the product of the Government-operated creameries is shipped out of the Province. It thus does not come in competition with that manufactured in the Province, but leaves the local market, which is more or less of a retail one, and its higher prices, to the private creameries. This year over 400,000 pounds of butter from the Government-operated creameries was sent to the Yukon. In addition to the work of the creameries a campaign of instruction in the best methods of manufacturing butter by means of a travelling dairy school was carried into the remote parts of the Province and established among the foreign element where as yet no creameries have been established.

Grain Judging School

A travelling school for giving instruction concerning the commercial grades of grain, superior varieties of grain for seeding purposes, soil cultivation, peculiarities of the different grain crops, destruction of weeds, etc., was run through the Province, stopping at every important station. In connection with this a bulletin was

issued, covering in a very large measure the work of instruction on this train. This work was also of the greatest importance to farmers in giving them correct information along lines as above.

Noxious Weeds

The dryness of the climate, and particularly the dry falls, make it impossible to harvest the bountiful crops without having to put them under cover, as in the Eastern Provinces. The ease with which weed seeds are preserved on account of the dry climate causes the weed question to be one of the most serious problems confronting the farmers of Alberta. Add to this the one-sided system of soil cultivation and you have a condition of affairs which lends itself to the spread of noxious weeds. In 1906 the Department spent \$3,214.13 in the destruction of noxious weeds. In 1907 the amount was \$16,358.73, and in 1908, \$10,384.73. Last year there were 98 weed inspectors employed in various parts of the Province, their work being supervised by a chief weed inspector. Besides, the actual work of these inspectors in destroying the worst fields of weeds, a knowledge of their habits of growth, and the best means of eradicating them, has been carried on. Bulletins giving illustrations and a description of the worst weeds, have been distributed, and a new one, more complete than the previous one, is now in course of preparation. I have met quite a few Manitoba people who have conversed with me in regard to the great quantity of weeds that are to be found in that Province, and I was informed by a member of the Manitoba Government that we could not be too drastic in doing what we could to keep down weeds in this Province. (Hear, hear.)

Harvest Help

Owing to the rapid increase in the acreage brought under cultivation, the question of a sufficient supply of help at harvest is assuming serious proportions. In 1907 the department placed an officer at Winnipeg at the time of the harvest excursions to see that a proper proportion of the excursionists came to Alberta. He was successful in securing 2,500 harvest hands in 1907.

The Grain Growing Industry

The extreme southern portion of the Province heretofore devoted largely to ranching is being rapidly broken up and brought under cultivation under grain. The importance of the proper cultivation of the soil, the use of improved seed and other matters connected with the growth of grain are receiving considerable attention at the hands of the department. The services of a noted expert on soil culture, Mr. H. W. Campbell, of Lincoln, Nebraska, have been secured for two seasons to deliver lectures to the farmers on his method of soil culture, known as "Campbell's Dry Farming System."

The work of Professor Campbell has been greatly appreciated by the grain growers. The development in grain growing in the southern part of the Province has been very marked within the last two or three years. "Alberta Red" winter wheat is becoming famous.

The Government is now negotiating with Mr. Campbell to start a demonstration station or farm in the southern portion of the Province, to carry out his method of soil culture right in the Province, where the farmers can see it.

Professor Campbell's system will be of benefit in all parts of the Province. In Strathcona constituency I met a farmer who has introduced some of Professor Campbell's ideas with success.

Exhibits Outside Province

In addition to answering all kinds of enquiries regarding the settlement of the Province, and supplying the handbook, the Department has made exhibits of the resources of the Province at outside points, such as the Dominion Exhibition at Halifax, at Sherbrooke, Quebec, and last year at Calgary, also at Toronto and London exhibitions for two seasons. These exhibits have been unique and attracted a good deal of attention. The last one made at Toronto last September was voted the most attractive exhibit on the exhibition grounds.

Agricultural Education

The Department has followed a progressive policy all the way through with regard to agricultural education. This policy has been to educate the farmer now on the land rather than his son. The work of an agricultural college in many ways has been taken direct to the farmers. As the years roll on the demand for an agricultural college and the need for one will become greater. In the meantime, to meet this situation, the Government has arranged to pay the railway fare and non-residential tuition fee of every young man desiring to take a course at a Canadian agricultural college, that is, at either Manitoba Agricultural College, the Ontario Agricultural College, or the MacDonald Agricultural College at St Annes de Bellevue, Quebec. This practically puts the students on a better footing than they would be if the Province had a college of its own, because the students are able to take all the benefits to be derived from a larger, better equipped institution than would be possible for this Government to establish at the present time. Just as soon as the number of students going east is such as to warrant it, a college will be established. At present there are four young men taking advantage of this offer, and from present indications this number will be considerably increased for another year.

Agricultural Societies

When the Province was formed there were 16 agricultural societies and four exhibition associations. There are now 38 agricultural societies and 5 exhibition associations. The grants paid to agricultural societies in 1906 were \$8,461.86; in 1907, \$14,550.45 and in 1908, \$20,396.49.

Under the Agricultural Societies Act, assistance is given to winter poultry shows—limit \$300 each; seed grain fairs, limit \$100 each, and horticultural shows limit \$300 each.

Public Health.

New Health Act passed. A Board of Health has been appointed under it to draft rules and regulations governing the handling of a great many diseases and conditions inadvisable to provide for in detail in the Act. Last year smallpox was prevalent in some parts of the Province during every month of the year. Earnest efforts have

been made continuously to keep the general health of the public under control, so that there need never be fear at any time of outsiders incurring any risk with regard to contagious diseases.

Provincial Laboratory—Established to assist in diagnosing infectious diseases and other purposes.

Hospitals—Aid was given in 1906 and 1907 at the rate of 25c per day for every patient in the hospitals. In 1908 the aid was 25c per day for paying patients and 50c per day for non-paying patients. Expenditure in 1906, \$16,388.00; in 1907, \$31,438.00; in 1908, \$45,043.75.

Miscellaneous Work

Bounty on Sugar Beets—The Department is giving a bounty on the growth of sugar beets in the province. This amounts to one-half cent per pound on the amount of sugar produced. One-half of this bounty goes to the farmer. The bounty remains at one-half cent per pound for two years after which it is one-quarter cent per pound for three years. The amount of bounty paid on sugar beets grown in 1906 at one-half cent per pound was \$23,366.50. The amount on beets grown in 1908 at the rate of one-quarter cent per pound was \$9,000.00.

Forestry—Each year the Department has had an institute worker talking forestry, the general thought being the planting of wind breaks in the more exposed portions of the province, and the preservation of the trees in those portions where they exist. Too much stress cannot be placed upon the influence that trees have upon the climate of a country.

Fruit Experiment Stations—It is a well known fact that the small fruits do well throughout the province such as raspberries, currants, gooseberries, saskatoons and cranberries. The success with larger fruits has not been so marked, but individual farmers have been successful in growing some varieties of apples, plums and crab apples in various sections of the settled portions of the province. This being the case, it is a question whether the failure is due to climatic conditions, to ignorance of the proper method of caring for and handling of the trees, or to the suitability of the varieties. All these three questions enter into the situation, but it is confidently believed that the question of soil moisture and the consequent cultivation and handling of the trees has more to do with their success than anything else. The government, therefore, decided to establish fruit experiment stations in different parts of the province, at which different varieties of trees are being tested as to their suitability. Different methods of cultivation, planting and handling the trees will be followed in order to ascertain the true conditions under which the larger fruits should be cultivated. A few facts have been more or less definitely ascertained, but it is, as yet, too soon to draw any definite conclusions regarding the work. These stations are situated at Medicine Hat, Magrath, Granum, De Winton, Didsbury, Wetaskiwin, Clover Bar, Vegreville and Kitscoty.

Immigration and Colonization

Owing to the newness of the country and the vast quantity of land available for settlement the department is taking active steps

to co-operate with the Dominion government in doing everything it can to bring in new settlers. An official handbook has been issued setting forth in moderate language the resources of the Province. The demand for this book has been phenomenal and already two large editions have been practically exhausted.

Education Department

Some consider, Mr. Speaker that education is the most important work of the province. I shall not discuss the work of the education department at any great length. The work of the administration in educational matters is pretty well known throughout the whole province as the people of Alberta take a great interest in education.

The statistics concerning the school districts are as follows:—

In existence Sept. 1st, 1905—	No. of								
Public	551	Candidates.	Wrote.	Successful.					
Separate	7	Standard.	1906 1907 1908	1906 1907 1908					
Unorganized	4	V.	440 540 741	318 308 467					
Total	562	VI.	181 230 281	108 124 199					
Erected 1905 (after Sept. 1st)—		VII. ...	113 113 130	85 84 101					
Public	40	VIII. ...	33 45 45	27 37 43					
Total	602	Extras only	1 3 6	1 2 —					
Erected 1906—		Totals..	772 931 1203	539 555 810					
Public	144	Professional Examinations							
Total	746	1906.							
Erected 1907—		1st Term 2nd Term							
Public	155	First	6	20					
Separate	1	Second	21	57					
Total	156	1907							
Total (Dec. 31st, 1907)	902	1st Term 2nd Term							
Erected 1908	168	First	5	20					
Since Jan. 1st, 1909	23	Second	32	28					
Memo re School Districts		1908							
No. of ungraded schools		1906 1907 1908							
in operation	532 640 735	1905	\$ 66,700	\$ 81,500					
No. of depts. in operation	228 300 329	1906	422,325	347,175					
No. of ungraded depts.		1907	674,515	485,165					
open during year	256 287 505	1908	563,925	787,900					
No. of ungraded depts.									
open during part year	276 353 230								
No. of depts. in graded									
schools open whole									
year	214 256 325								
No. of depts. in graded									
schools open during									
part of year	14 44 19								
Examinations									
Candidates in all									
standards—									
N. W. T., 1905	1215								
Alberta, 1906	772								
Alberta, 1907	931								
Alberta, 1908	1197								
The Grants Made									
1906—Total grants paid ..	\$170,315.16								
1907—Total grants paid ..	159,725.89								
1908—Total grants paid ..	228,678.48								
Total	\$558,719.53								
1909									
Estimate for this year	\$260,000								
Educational tax (common tax)	49,000								
Secondary Education	14,719								
Schools organized since act									
came in force	14,719								
Total amount over 1908									
	\$109,321.52								

At present there are eight school inspectors in the Province, but owing to the rapid increase in the number of schools, other inspectors must necessarily be appointed.

(a) Interim Certificates.

1st class to Alberta teachers	40	2nd class to Alberta teachers	91
1st class, N.W.T. teachers	6	2nd class, N.W.T. teachers.....	6
1st class, teachers from Saskatchewan	4	2nd class, teachers from Saskatchewan	13
1st class, teachers from Ontario....	20	2nd class, teachers from Ontario	90
1st class, teachers from Manitoba	2	2nd class, teachers from Manitoba	14
1st class, teachers from Nova Scotia	1	2nd class, teachers from Nova Scotia	15
1st class, teachers from New Brunswick	5	2nd class, teachers from New Brunswick	1
1st class, teachers from Quebec	2	2nd class teachers from Quebec..	7
1st class, teachers from England	1	2nd class, teachers from England and Wales	7
		2nd class, teachers from Ireland..	2
		2nd class, teachers from Scotland	6
Total	81	Total	251

I beg to present at this point an extract from the report of J. J. Tilley, inspector of Model Schools for Ontario, which is as follows: Seventy-three (73) per cent. of the rural and village schools in Ontario are taught by teachers holding third-class certificates or those of a lower grade, and the total number of first-class teachers among the 5,214 rural school teachers is 143.

In Alberta out of a total of 1,210 teachers, 214 are holders of first-class certificates.

During the year 1908 Alberta has drawn from the other provinces and from Great Britain 41 teachers holding first class certificates and 160 holding those of the second class. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have felt this drain to such an extent that they now exact a promise from every student entering the normal schools to the effect that they will remain in the Province and teach during at least three years after graduation from these institutions.

Normal School

There are 345 teachers who received training in our own provincial Normal school.

The following is a comparison between the certificates held by teachers in Ontario and Alberta:

Total Number of Teachers in Ontario, 1906	9,762	Number of Teachers with Second Class Certificates in Ontario	4,007
Total Number of Teachers in Alberta, 1907	1,210	Number of Teachers with Second Class Certificates in Alberta	830
Number of Male Teachers in Ontario, 1906	1,863	Number of Teachers holding Third Class or lower in Ontario	5,066
Number of Male Teachers in Alberta, 1907	310	Number of Teachers holding Third Class or lower in Alberta	176
Number of Female Teachers in Ontario, 1906	7,899	Percentage of First Class Teachers in Ontario	7.06
Number of Female Teachers in Alberta, 1907	900	Percentage of First Class Teachers in Alberta	17.5
Number of Teachers with First Class Certificates in Ontario	689	Percentage of Second Class Teachers in Ontario	41.4
Number of Teachers with First Class Certificates in Alberta	214	Percentage of Second Class Teachers in Alberta	68.0
		Percentage of Teachers holding Third Class or lower in Ontario	51.9
		Percentage of Teachers holding Third Class or lower in Alberta	14.54

A large percentage of the teachers holding provisional certificates in Alberta have licenses which entitle them to teach in the provinces from which they emigrated.

Distribution of Moneys

The distribution of moneys collected under the provisions of the Educational Taxation Act was as follows to December 31st, 1908:

Amount collected net	\$98,132.17	Common Schools	49,066.08
University (less \$8,159.93		Organized since Act came	
paid 1908)	19,626.43	into force	14,719.83
Fifth Grade Schools	14,719.83		
			<u>\$98,132.17</u>

Common Schools Benefit Greatly

Critics of the educational tax imposed by the Alberta Government in 1907, upon lands lying outside organized school districts will find matter for reflection in the first figures given but concerning the amount collected from this tax. They go to show that four-fifths of the total amount is expended on the common school system of the Province while but one-fifth is appropriated to the needs of the University.

It is also worthy of note that since the tax came into effect in 1907 the University's share of this educational fund was more than met by the taxes paid by the Hudson's Bay Company alone on land assessable under this tax.

From this it is apparent that this ancient and wealthy company has borne the full burden of maintaining the new University since its establishment. It is also apparent that the opponents of the tax in ranching districts, who inveigh against it as "the University tax," a tax imposed for unnecessary higher education, are utterly mistaken.

Generous Outlay on Common Schools

The amount of care and money expended upon Alberta's general school system has been several times very favorably commented upon by outsiders interested in educational matters. They agree that for a young province an unusually high standard of efficiency is both aimed at and attained.

The statement of the Educational Trust Account gives fresh evidence of the government's generous outlay upon the common school. The figures obtained from the provincial treasurer show that the collections for 1907 and 1908, on this account—derived from the tax upon land lying outside organized school districts—amount to \$109,276.23. Of this \$11,144.06 was expended in connection with the collection of this fund.

The net amount of this fund is consequently \$98,132.17, which has been disbursed in the following proportion:

Common schools	\$78,505.95	Common schools (50 per	
University	19,626.23	cent.)	49,066.80
		New school districts	14,719.93
In detail the actual disbursement of		Schools grading over 5th ..	14,719.93
the fund according to this division			
was:		Total net	<u>\$98,132.17</u>
University (20 per cent.) ..	\$19,626.23		

Of this \$98,132.17 the Hudson's Bay Company contributed \$24,143.08 or \$4,516.85 more than the government has paid out of this fund for the maintenance of the University.

School Readers

I might state Mr. Speaker, we distributed last year to every child in every school in the Province free readers. (Applause). There has not been a single criticism, in fact, great praise has been given to our readers in the Province of Alberta. The contract which was entered into was not a very large one, amounting to about four or five thousand dollars a year to furnish readers to the children of our schools.

We felt that it was desirable that our readers should be in the hands of the children in our schools at least as early as school opened after the last summer holidays. It was quite impossible for any publishing firm in the Dominion of Canada to have those readers ready to be supplied then. In fact I noticed in some of the Eastern papers that the supply of Ontario readers in the book stores is exhausted, and if we had depended on the Ontario readers we would have been disappointed and I think it is very fortunate that we had our new readers ready to be supplied to the children in our schools at the opening after the summer vacation. (Hear, hear.)

The first issue of books were necessarily published in the United States of America, and I may be permitted to inform you, Mr. Speaker and hon. members of this House that at least seventy per cent. of the school books in the Province of British Columbia are published in the United States of America. Quite a few of the text books in all the Provinces of Canada are published elsewhere than in the Dominion of Canada. I believe the readers supplied to the children in the Province of Nova Scotia are published in the Homeland. But I am pleased to be able to inform hon. members that the book publishers in Ontario are bracing up. They feel that the people of Canada will not put up any longer with the very poor school books that have been supplied to their children, and we are now able to have our school readers published in the City of Toronto. (Applause.)

I gave every opportunity, and every opportunity was given, to the people of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan to put in tenders for the manufacture of the readers, even before the time when the committee had commenced their work to get out the readers, and I may tell hon. members that the whole work in the selections were made by educationalists in the Western Provinces of Canada. We already have a supply of some of the readers which have been published in Canada. (Applause.)

I stated in my budget speech last year that I did not expect the financial stringency would affect the revenues of the Province of Alberta very materially during the year we were then entering upon. My predictions in this respect have been more than fulfilled.

Recapitulation of Receipts and Expenditures for 1908

Revenue—			
Balance Dec. 31, 1907	\$ 43,850.38	Public Works Department	130,682.71
Dominion of Canada	1,254,125.00	Agricultural Department	27,814.64
Treasury Department	164,328.56	Dairy Commissioner	241,298.20
Provincial Secretary's Department	23,008.32	Education Department	1,379.00
Attorney-General's Department	371,003.17	Clerk Legislative Assembly	2,057.50
		Government Printer	3,139.46
		Miscellaneous	630,813.85
			\$2,893,500.70

Expenditures—		Succession Duties	1,788.06
Civil government	\$ 172,451.98	Court costs under L.I.O....	60.00
Legislation	35,749.25	Court costs under School	
Administration of Justice	338,910.92	Assessment Ordinance ...	5.00
Public Works	1,323,231.25	Escheated Bail	200.00
Education	282,205.04	Escheated Goods	40.42
Agriculture and Statistics	436,904.65	Land Titles Office Fees	96,751.50
Hospitals, charities and		Do., net fees collected	
public health	61,489.47	from Sept. 1, '05, to Sept.	
Miscellaneous	131,048.44	7, '06	35,498.07
Remissions under Sec. 51,		Maintenance Insane Ch. 7, '07	1,206.82
Chap. 5, '06	105.50	Fines—Dominion Statutes..	9,444.41
Do. Sec. I, Chap. 9, '06...	70.00	Ordinances	12,288.31
Site for Parliament Build-		Hotel Licenses	54,385.24
ings	35,000.00	Wholesale liquor licenses ..	9,852.75
Fernie Fire Relief Fund..	5,000.00	Dining car licenses	200.00
Surplus Dec. 31, 1908 ...	69,669.83	Com. trav. liquor licenses..	2,940.00
		Permits under Liquor License	
	\$2,893,500.70	Ordinance	599.00
Leaving a surplus on hand Dec. 31st,		Brewers' and Distillers' li-	
1908, amounting to \$69,669.83.		censes	1,491.90

Detail of Revenue

We have received from the Treasury Department the sum of \$164,328.56 the items being:

Hail insurance fees	\$26,011.41
Loan Companies	1,774.00
Trust Companies	650.00
Banks	14,300.00
Land Companies	3,350.00
Life Insurance Companies..	4,543.76
Fire Insurance Companies..	8,185.12
Accident Insurance Com-	
panies	356.72
Miscellaneous	1,961.06
Railway Taxes	84,011.53
Interest	19,184.96

Total

We received from the Provincial Secretary's Department the sum of \$23,008.32, the items being:

License Fees—	
Auctioneers	\$ 820.00
Peddlers	500.00
Marriage	3,580.00
Certificates under Provin-	
cial seal	98.00
Companies Ordinances—	
Incorporation Fees	6,967.00
Registration Fees	743.70
Foreign Companies Ordinance—	
License Fees	\$ 8,507.62
Registration Fees	1,623.00
Automobile licenses	137.52
Incorp. Fees, Chap. 22, '07	9.50
Regis. do., 5, '07, Sec. 10..	2.00
Regis. do., 43, '07	10.00
Regis. do., 22 '08	10.00

Total

We received from the Department of the Attorney-General the sum of \$371,003.17, the items being:

Commissions—	
Notaries Public	\$ 470.00
Administration of Oaths...	50.00

Total

We received from the Department of Public Works the sum of \$130,682.72, the items being:

Engineers' Examination	
Fees	\$ 4,216.00
Steam Boiler Inspection Fees	3,259.00
Lease of Road Allowances..	584.00
Telephone Fees	118,998.54
Other sources	3,625.17

Total

We have received from the Agricultural Department the sum of \$269,112.84.

Dairy Commissioner—	
Sale of Butter and other	
sources	\$241,298.20
Game Licenses	2,117.50
Brand Fees	2,838.75
Registration of Stallions ..	1,077.00
Sale of Dressed Poultry ..	4,322.28
Seed Grain	15,810.26
Other sources	1,648.85

Total

We received from the Department of Education, the sum of \$1,379.99, the items being:

Examination Fees	\$1,379.00
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We received from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly the sum of \$2,057.50, on account of printing of private bills, and \$3,139.46 on account of subscriptions to Gazette.

Details of Expenditures

Under the head of Civil Government we expended:

Lieut.-Governor's Office	\$ 2,400.00
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Executive Council	35,388.28
Attorney-General's Department	20,004.41
Provincial Secretary's Department	4,983.74
Treasury Department	10,360.26
Audit Department	9,906.44
Public Works Department	51,168.67
Education Department	14,811.00
Agricultural Department	24,529.18

Total \$173,451.98

The Legislature voted last year \$192,065.00 and expended \$173,451.98, coming short of expending under the head of Civil Government of nearly \$19,000.00. (Applause.)

Under the head of Legislation we expended:

Mr. Speaker's sessional allowance	\$ 1,500.00
Deputy Speaker's sessional allowance	200.00
Indemnity to Members	25,362.10
Clerk Legislative Assembly	800.00
Archivist	625.50
Postage and telegrams	66.08
Library	1,852.58
Newspapers and periodicals	190.75
Contingencies	2,472.19
Librarian	1,800.00
Clerical Assistance	880.05

Total \$35,749.25

Under the head of Administration of Justice we expended:

Clerks of the Courts	\$26,864.46
Process Issuers	5,775.84
Sheriffs	14,693.88
Office Shorthand Writers	7,829.26
Contingencies	2,191.55
Agents of the Attorney-General	11,920.85
Witnesses, Jurors and Interpreters	26,488.80
Coroners' Inquests	3,008.75
Incidental Justice	5,456.51
Land Titles Office, Edmonton	28,159.28
Land Titles Office, Calgary	30,102.68
R.N.W.M.P.	75,000.00
Maintenance and Transportation of Prisoners	29,376.80
Maintenance in Guard-Room and Transportation of Prisoners	4,621.37
Committal and Maintenance of Insane	43,321.85
Law Library	939.32
License Branch—	
Inspections	14,417.65
Commissioners' meetings	1,218.65
Advertising	381.69
Prosecutions	6,697.64
Contingencies	444.09

Total \$338,910.92

Under the head of Public Works we expended:

Legislative and Departmental Buildings	\$ 52,889.64
Normal School, Calgary, rent	400.00
Government House	4,845.20
Inspection Public Works	19,670.53
Inspection Coal Mines	6,936.56
Inspection Steam Boilers	8,393.51
Fireguards	4,191.87
Testing for water	10,483.76
Ferries	18,287.56
Ditches and Drains	5,068.38
Maintenance Public Works	33,834.18
Roads	249,694.38
Bridges	347,839.56
Surveys	74,760.79
Normal School, Calgary	97,237.42
Parliament Buildings	166,529.04
Court House, Cardston	6,985.78
Sites for Public Buildings	16,477.65
Court House, Wetaskiwin	46,415.41
Tools and Implements	15,631.91
Lethbridge Jail	112.38
Asylum, Ponoka	18,884.20
Court House, Edmonton	17,327.46
Land Titles Office, Calgary	93,417.50
Contingencies	7,026.53

Total \$1,323,231.25

Under the head of Education we expended:

Grants to Schools	\$228,678.48
Normal Schools and Teachers' Institutes	10,345.59
Inspection of Schools	13,175.02
Travelling Expenses and Subsistence	5,170.40
Supervisor of Schools among Foreigners	1,600.00
Expenses of Supervision among Foreigners	1,341.35
Educational Council	368.10
Examinations	3,762.76
Deaf, Mute and Blind	2,437.35
Clauses 1, 2, 3 of the School Ordinance	614.55
School Readers	14,741.44

Total \$282,205.04

Agriculture Department

Expenditure, \$483,904.65, the chief items being:

Agricultural Societies	\$ 20,296.49
Judges at Exhibitions	1,580.60
Institutes	6,502.77
Experiments, Farm Crops	304.84
Destruction of Noxious Weeds	10,384.73
Sugar Beet Industry	21,464.50
General Dairy	14,119.68
Loans to Creameries	15,150.00
Advances to Creameries	249,802.92
Dominion Exhibition, Calgary	25,000.00

Total \$433,904.65

Under the head of Hospitals, Charities and Public Health we expended:

Hospital Ordinance	\$45,043.75
Public Health Act	12,298.43
Care of Incurables	1,388.50
Miscellaneous	2,758.79

Total \$61,489.47

Under the head of Miscellaneous we expended:

Hail Insurance	\$73,454.99
Government Printer	38,696.60
Unforeseen and Unprovided for	16,043.50
Miscellaneous	2,853.35

Total \$131,048.44

The Estimates

Now, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Revenue and Expenditure for the Year 1909:

The Telephone Department

We are keeping the telephone business quite independent of our general revenues. We propose to have the telephone branch stand on their own foundations, and we ask for an amount of \$610,000.00 to be voted. (Applause.)

Telephone System—Estimate for 1909

Construction	General
Rural lines (800 miles).....	Operating expenses at \$6,000
Medicine Hat Exchange ..	per month\$72,000.00
Wetaskiwin Exchange	Salaries
Lacombe Exchange	24,000.00
Cardston Exchange	Total
Raymond Exchange	\$96,000.00
Magrath Exchange	Total
Olds Exchange	\$526,446.90
Lethbridge Exchange	Interest on Loan and Ex-
Innisfail Exchange	penses
High River Exchange	83,553.10
Vegreville Exchange	Total
Didsbury Exchange	\$610,000.00
Cochrane Exchange	Estimated Receipts, 1909
Camrose Exchange	Balance brought forward
Clareholm Exchange	from 1908
Monarch	\$ 69,669.83
Calgary extensions	Dom. Subsidy, \$1,302,125—
Exchange extensions (other	Government and Legislation 180,000.00
than Calgary)	Population
50,000.00	200,000.00
Toll circuit Edmonton-Mac-	Annual Payment to Prov-
leod	ince
47,250.00	405,375.00
Toll circuit Taber-Medicine	Compensation Public Lands 375,000.00
Hat	Public Buildings Fund
22,600.00	93,750.00
Toll circuit Edmonton-Port	On population, estimated
Saskatchewan	increase at mid census
2,750.00	period commencing Mar.
Toll circuit Stavely-Calgary.	1st
7,500.00	48,000.00
Engineering and superinten-	School Lands Fund, \$60,000—
dence	Interest on principal monies
16,211.75	and other sources
Total	60,000.00
\$340,446.90	Attorney-General's Depart-
Stores	ment, \$440,000.00—
Material in stock at Edmon-	Land Titles Office Fees ..
ton	\$125,000.00
\$35,000.00	Sheriffs' Fees
Material in stock at Calgary	15,000.00
35,000.00	Court Fees
Total	65,000.00
\$70,000.00	Succession Duty Fees
Buildings	15,000.00
Exchange Building, Leth-	Liquor Licenses
bridge	69,000.00
\$10,000.00	Fines under Statutes and
Exchange building one other	Ordinances
point	30,000.00
10,000.00	Assurance Fund from be-
Total	ginning
\$20,000.00	121,000.00
Carried forward	Public Works, \$15,000—
\$1,186,794.83	Steam Boiler Inspection
	and other Fees
	15,000.00

Brought forward	\$1,186,794.83	Estimated Expenditure 1909	
Examination Fees	\$ 1,500.00	Civil Government	\$192,065.00
Agricultural Department	\$320,000—	Legislation	37,700.00
Brand and other Fees	\$ 15,000.00	Administration of Justice..	370,870.00
Game Licenses	5,000.00	Public Works	710,173.00
Reimbursement of Advances		Education	318,400.00
on Butter and Poultry ..	300,000.00	Agriculture and Statistics	516,853.04
Provincial Secretary's Department,		Hospitals, Charities and	
\$35,000—		Public Health	80,640.00
Fees under Ordinances...	\$ 20,000.00	Miscellaneous	244,700.00
License and other Fees ...	15,000.00		
Government Printer, \$5,000—		Total	\$2,471,401.04
Official Gazette, printing			
and advertising	5,000.00	Revenue as per Estimate	\$2,483,665.58
Treasury Department,		Expenditure as per Estim-	
\$227,370.75—		ate	\$2,471,401.04
Corporation Taxation Act ..	\$ 60,000.00		
Railway Tax Act	72,370.75	Estimated surplus, 1909, \$	12,264.54
Hall Insurance Fees	75,000.00		
Interest on Bank Balances.	20,000.00		
Legislative Assembly, \$3,000—			
Private Bills Fees	\$ 3,000.00		
Miscellaneous, \$5,000—			
Refunds and return from			
other sources	5,000.00		
Total	\$2,483,665.58		

Same Amount as Last Year

Hon. members will note, Mr. Speaker, that we ask the same amount for this year under the head of Civil Government as last year. As already stated we did not spend the full amount, only expending some \$173,000, nearly \$19,000 less than the amount voted. Under the head of Legislation we ask this year the very same amount as in 1908. We came within a small amount of spending this sum last year.

There is very little difference between the vote asked for this year under the head of administration of justice, and the amount voted last year. One increase in the vote which occurs is on account of sheriffs and deputy and acting sheriffs. This is accounted for owing to the Government paying sheriffs' salaries that were formerly paid out of fees collected by them. Of course we will get the fees, and they are now placed on a salary basis. The amount asked for the license branch is about the same as last year.

The expenditure for public works, under the amount chargeable to income and consolidated revenue funds we ask \$710,173. We ask you to vote \$800,000 to be chargeable to capital account. (Applause.) The time has arrived when it will be much more economical to push forward the construction of some of our larger buildings, such as the Legislation Buildings, Edmonton, Land Titles Office, Calgary, Asylum for Insane at Ponoka, and other large buildings in various parts of the Province.

For legislative and departmental buildings, maintenance, rent, caretaking, furnishings, insurance and frontage taxes, the amount asked is \$55,000. This sum includes the amounts we are paying for rooms or buildings for holding court, as well as caretaking and expenses of that character. For maintenance of Government House the sum of \$5,000 asked for is the same as last year.

Court House at Fort

Hon. members will note an item of \$20,000 for construction of a court house at Fort Saskatchewan to be chargeable to capital account. Fort Saskatchewan is one of the old towns of the Province and for many years was known as the chief seat of the North-West Mounted Police in the Province. Sessions of the District Court and Supreme Court are held in Fort Saskatchewan, and we feel we should enter on the construction of a building and finish it if possible during this year. (Applause.)

The items for inspection and superintendence of public works; inspection of coal mines and steam boilers; fireguard construction; testing for water and providing public wells, ferry service and surveys, maintenance and construction of ditches and drains, are about the same as last year. We ask the same vote as last year for the construction of roads and bridges. We are not lessening by a single dollar the very generous amounts which have been voted in previous years by this Legislature for the improvement of roads and the construction of bridges. (Loud applause.) We propose, however, to charge to capital account \$151,500 of the amount asked for in connection with the construction of bridges. (Applause.)

Hon. members will note an item of \$20,000 each as a first estimate for court houses at Claresholm and Medicine Hat. In the item \$76,673 for sites for public buildings, it covers sites for court houses at Innisfail, Nanton, Didsbury, Olds, Vegreville, Vermilion, Hardisty and Gleichen. (Applause.)

Under public works the amount to be voted, chargeable to income is \$710,173 and \$800,000, chargeable to capital account, which amount can be easily arranged for with the banks as a temporary advance. (Hear, hear.)

Increase for Agriculture.

For agriculture and statistics we ask for a vote of \$516,853.04. There are some increases under some of the headings. For agricultural societies there is an increase of \$8,900, accounted for by an increase of twelve agricultural societies. To promote agricultural education there is an increase of \$2,600. To promote and encourage the production and interchange of improved stock there is an increase of \$500. Stock Inspection an increase from \$3,000 to \$5,200. Extension of markets, an increase of \$300. Increased grant to Cattle Breeders' Association of \$350, and to Horse Breeders' Association \$400.

Under the heading to provide for advance payments and general operation expenses of the creamery work there is an item of \$300,000. This is an advance of \$50,000 over the amount we asked last year, but, of course, this sum will be returned to the general revenues. The increased expenditure asked for immigration and colonization is \$4,000. To provide for establishment of a pork packing plant and cold storage (first estimate) \$50,000. (Applause.)

We have increased the vote for hospitals, charities and public health and ask this year \$80,640. (Applause.) Under the heading of miscellaneous we ask \$244,700. The government printer will require more money in order to print the various statutes. The sum of

\$65,000 is asked for expenditure under the Election Act. It is almost a certainty, Mr. Speaker, that an election will be held this year. I do not know what time it will take place, but there will be one this year, and we ask this vote for that purpose.

The grant to the Alpine club this year is \$1,000 an increase of \$500 which they asked for this year.

For hail insurance we ask \$75,000 to make provision for increased indemnities under the Hail Insurance Act. The indemnity at present is \$4 and if it meets with the approval of the House we propose to pay \$6 and \$8 as well, with, of course, an increased premium, say twenty cents an acre for \$4; thirty cents an acre for \$6 and 40 cents an acre for \$8. I do not think we ought to abolish our Hail Insurance Act, but should endeavor, if possible, to bring the expenditure within the amount that we receive. (Hear, hear.)

Criticism Challenged.

Mr. Speaker: I have gone into some little detail in regard to the work which the Government and the Legislature of the Province of Alberta has accomplished during the last three years and a half. I challenge criticism with regard to all the items of expenditure under which they are made. We have disclosed to the legislature all the items of expenditure, which have been most fair, (hear, hear). We purchased quite a few sites for buildings and entered upon the construction of quite a number of buildings. In the purchase of no single site or building in the Province of Alberta have we paid too large an amount. (Hear, hear.) I am quite satisfied to leave it to the men of the best judgment as to values of real estate in the places where they reside and where buildings are being constructed as to whether we have paid too much or a reasonable amount for our sites. (Hear, hear.) I have not as yet heard of one adverse criticism from any of the people who reside in the places where we have secured our sites to a single one of our purchases. (Applause.) We have, I think in every instance, purchased direct from the owners. We have not paid any commission and we have not received anything for any other purpose in connection with the purchase of sites. (Applause.)

We have been doing very important work in this great province for the last three years and a half. A great deal has been accomplished, but there is, and will be a great deal to accomplish in the future. (Hear, hear.) This Government and this Legislature have laid the foundations of the institutions of this great Province of Alberta. We believe we have laid them well and that history will record it that the first Government and the first Legislature of the Province of Alberta succeeded well in meeting the requirements of this Province.

Mr. Speaker I have addressed you at perhaps greater length than I should but I felt that I should on this occasion inform the House what we propose to do this year as well as give a short review of what has been done in the years that are gone. (Prolonged applause.)